1st phase clinical study of anti-dengue drug ongoing

By DHEL NAZARIO

The first phase of the clinical study of the anti-dengue drug is expected to be completed by the end of April this year, the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) announced yesterday.

The herbal drug is one of the 20 technology projects discussed by the agency during the program “20 in 2020” in Pasay City. The anti-dengue drug is funded by the DOST - Philippine Council for Health Research and Development under the Tuklas Lunas Program.

The program aims to develop a herbal drug that will be the first definitive treatment for dengue. It will be utilizing natural materials that are effective and cost-efficient for patients afflicted by the disease.

It also aims to assess the effects of the drug preparation using medicinal plants by measuring the parameters such as electrocardiogram, hematology, blood chemistry, and vital signs plus the assessment of the toxicity per organ system.

The anti-dengue drug development program that is being implemented by Dr. Josefino Alvero and Dr. Rita Grace Alvero of Pharmalytics Corporation has already completed the dose formulation studies and acute and subchronic toxicity tests, and now seeks to test the safety of the combination formulation and determine the maximum tolerable dose in healthy human volunteers in a clinical trial setting.